REMARKS

Claims 1-34, 37-48, 51-60, 62-71, and 74-76 were pending. Claims 19 and 55 have been amended. Claims 41-44, 46-48, 51-54, 68-71, and 74-76 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-34, 37-40, 55-60, and 62-67 remain pending subsequent entry of the present amendment.

Allowed Claims and Claim Rejections

In the present Office Action, claims 1-18 are allowed.

Claims 19-34, 37-48, 51-60, 62-71, and 74-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,229,593 ("Cato"). Applicant has cancelled claims 41-44 46-48, 51-54, 68-71, and 74-76 in order to expedite allowance of the present application. Applicant has amended independent claims 19 and 55 to include the features similar to that of allowed independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claims 19 and 55 are in condition for allowance. As each of dependent claims 20-34, 36-40, 56-60, and 62-67 include at least the features of the independent claim upon which it depends, claims 20-34, 36-40, 56-60, and 62-67 are also believed patentable as well.

Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe issues remain which would prevent the application from proceeding to allowance, the below signed representative would appreciate, and requests, a telephone interview in order to facilitate a speedy resolution. The below signed representative can be reached at (512) 853-8866.

Application Serial No. 09/941,319 - Filed August 28, 2001

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-16201/RDR.

Also included:

Return Postcard

Respectfully submitted,

Rory D. Rankin Reg. No. 47,884

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, . Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. P.O. Box 398 Austin, TX 78767-0398

Phone: (512) 853-8800

Date: February 27, 2006